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DIGITAL EDITION
HALFWAY TO THE MARK... OF THE BEAST!
RORY McCONVILLE
CARLO BARBERI
MATT
SPAWN

WORLD RECORD BREAKING COMIC!

SPAWN

SPAWN'S UNIVERSE 92 22

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PREVIOUSLY IN *SPAWN*

Spawn finally receives an audience with his former mentor, Cogliostro, now known as SINN. The ensuing battle proves that SINN's power has grown exponentially, and that Spawn is completely unprepared for what is going to happen next!

image

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IN THE WEEK SINCE HIS CLASH WITH SPAWN, WORD OF SINN'S POWER HAS TRAVELED FAR AND WIDE.
HIS SUDDEN EMERGENCE AS A FRONTRUNNER IN THE RACE FOR HELL'S THRONE HAS THROWN EXISTING PLANS AND ALLEGIANCES INTO CHAOS.
HERALDING A CRISIS FOR SOME.
WHILE CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR OTHERS.
KNOCK
KNOCK

IT'S LATE, WHAT DO YOU NEED?
MY NAME IS CADICLUS. I'M HERE TO DECLARE MY ALLEGIANCE TO SINN.
YES, YES, COME IN.
THOUGH I MUST WARN YOU, MANY OTHERS ALSO WISH TO SPEAK WITH THE MASTER. AND THE LIST IS GETTING LONGER.
I SUGGEST YOU MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE. IT COULD BE QUITE SOME TIME BEFORE HE GRANTS YOU AN AUDIENCE.
TELL HIM HE'LL WANT TO HEAR WHAT I HAVE TO SAY.
I'M SURE YOU BELIEVE THAT. STILL, YOU'LL WAIT YOUR TURN.
AND WHAT IF THAT INFORMATION IS HOW HE CAN RETURN TO HELL? YOU SAW WHAT HAPPENED LAST WEEK?

I'M GOING TO KEEP SAYING IT, SIMMONS CAN'T BE ALLOWED TO CONTROL THE ***DEAD ZONES*** ANY LONGER.
HIS RECKLESSNESS AND *ARROGANCE* ARE ***LUXURIES*** WE CAN'T AFFORD.
WE DON'T ACT NOW, THERE MAY NOT BE ANOTHER CHANCE.
BECAUSE SINN ISN'T GOING TO BACK DOWN--HE'S GOING TO **REINFORCE**. HALF THE DEMONS ON EARTH ARE GATHERING UNDER HIS BANNER. IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE HE COMES FOR **SPAWN** AGAIN.
THIS IS OUR ***BEST*** OPPORTUNITY! WE HAVE TO STRIKE NOW, WHILE HE'S STILL WEAK!
WE GIVE HIM TIME TO RECOVER WE'LL ALL GET DRAGGED DOWN WITH HIM.
SO, WHAT'S THE PLAN?

WE AMBUSH HIM AT HIS BASE TONIGHT.
IT'S NOT AN EASY PLACE TO LOCATE BUT I'VE HAD SOMEONE ON THE *INSIDE*... BESIDES YOU, MARC.
I DON'T LIVE THERE, I SAID.
THAT'S OKAY, WHEN I REGENERATED CY-GOR, I ESTABLISHED A PERSONAL LINK WITH HIM. I'VE BEEN SPYING ON SPAWN FOR MONTHS.
OUR BIG PROBLEM IS WE NEED TO FIND THE POWER SOURCE THAT CONTROLS THE DEAD ZONES. HE'S NOT GOING TO GIVE THAT TO US WILLINGLY.
CAN WE JUST *SLOW* THINGS DOWN A SECOND? THIS ALL FEELS LIKE IT'S MOVING VERY FAST. MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST--
WE'VE RUN OUT OF TIME, MARC!
WE ATTACK *TONIGHT.*
"TO EXTRACT THAT INFO WE NEED HIM BACK HERE WHERE WE CAN CONTAIN HIM LONG ENOUGH TO..."

Um...JIM? CAN WE TALK FOR A SEC?
WHAT IS IT?
LOOK, I KNOW THIS ISN'T IDEAL TIMING, BUT WHY DON'T I JUST TRY TALKING TO AL FIRST?
YOU HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS, MARC?
NO, I JUST... I THINK THIS IS A BIG STEP AND I THINK IT'S WORTH TALKING TO HIM.

WHO KNOWS? MAYBE HIS FIGHT WITH SINN SOBERED HIM UP TO A NEW REALITY.
C'MON, MARC, DO YOU ACTUALLY EVEN THINK THAT'S POSSIBLE?
I DON'T!
IT'S TOO RISKY. WE'VE GOT THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE RIGHT NOW! TALKING GIVES THAT ALL AWAY.

I'LL BE DISCREET. WE OWE HIM THE OPPORTUNITY TO AT LEAST ASK FOR HIS COOPERATION.
IT WON'T WORK.
SAYS YOU. BESIDES, I'M NOT ASKING PERMISSION.
YOU CAME TO ME, REMEMBER? AND I'VE BEEN BUSTING MY ASS FOR WEEKS TRYING TO HELP, NOT TO MENTION LYING TO A LOT OF PEOPLE, DESPITE THE FACT YOU'RE STILL KEEPING ME IN THE DARK ABOUT YOUR ACTUAL PLAN.
I'VE BEEN TRUSTING YOU. I NEED YOU TO RETURN THE FAVOR.
FINE! WE'LL HOLD OFF.
TALK TO HIM. MAYBE HE'LL PROVE US WRONG.
I'M NOT HOLDING MY BREATH, THOUGH.

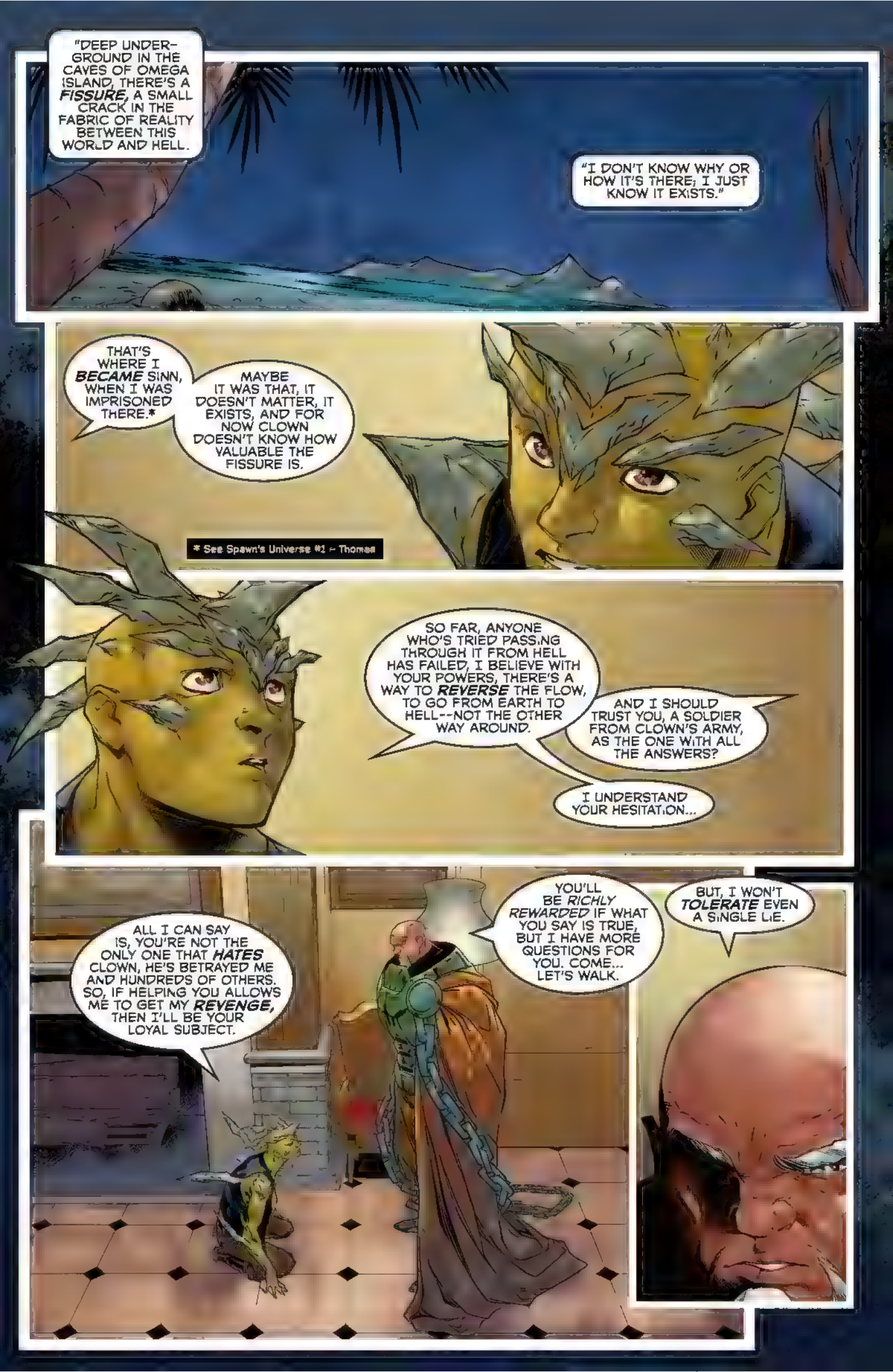
ELSEWHERE, A HORROR UNFOLDS AS HELL'S CHOSEN WARRIORS HAVE TURNED ON ONE ANOTHER IN PURSUIT OF THEIR OWN SENSE OF SURVIVAL!
COGLIOSTRO, NOW KNOWN AS SINN, IS AMONG THOSE WHOSE LIFE FORCE IS ABOUT TO BE EXTINGUISHED!

OR SO... APPEARS
Tsk. I REALLY THOUGHT YOU'D BE MUCH MORE OF A CHALLENGE, SINN. GIVEN IT WAS YOUR IDEA TO TEST ME.
SO, DID I PASS?
=UKK=
NO.
YOU'RE JUST THE LATEST DISAPPOINT-MENT!
SNAP

PATHETIC.
THESE ARE THE BEST TELEPATHS YOU CAN FIND? NONE OF THEM HAD ANYWHERE NEAR THE LEVEL OF PSYCH.C POWER I'LL NEED TO BREAK THROUGH SPAWN'S DEFENSES.
WE'RE TRYING, MY LORD, OUR SEARCH STILL CONTINUES BUT THEIR EXISTENCE ARE LIMITED IN NUMBERS AND...
SILENCE!
YOU'VE ALL WASTED ENOUGH OF MY TIME!
I SHOULD HAVE DONE THIS TASK MYSELF.

I UNDERSTAND YOUR FRUSTRATION, SINN...
DO YOU?
...BUT LOOK HOW FAR WE'VE COME THIS WEEK. THE HORDES WILLING TO PLEDGE THEIR LOYALTY TO...
IT'S IRRELEVANT IF I CAN'T UNLOCK A SINGLE DEAD ZONE.
SO, GET THE WORD OUT-- THAT STARTING TODAY, EVERY DAY SPAWN REFUSES TO OPEN THE DEAD ZONES, I WILL LEVEL A NEW CITY.
AND I'LL KEEP DOING IT UNTIL HE SURRENDERS CONTROL OF THEM TO ME.
THIS ISN'T WHAT WE AGREED TO. YOU SWORE TO LEAVE EARTH TO MY VAMPIRES.
CALM YOURSELF, BLUDD. THERE WILL BE PLENTY LEFT FOR YOU.
BUT YOU UNDERESTIMATE SIMMONS. HE'D RATHER BURN THIS WORLD DOWN THAN HAND IT TO THE LIKES OF YOU OR ME.
WELL THEN, IT MAY BE POSSIBLE THAT WE MAY NOT NEED SIMMONS AFTER ALL.

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, IRIS?
I WANT YOU TO MEET SOMEONE.
MY NAME ‹S CADICLUS, LORD SINN.
I'VE TRAVELLED A GREAT DISTANCE TO BE HERE SO THAT I MiGHT OFFER MY SERViCES IN YOUR JOURNEY.
FOR MONTHS, I SERVED THE VISION OF THE CLOWN. BUT EVENTUALLY I COULD FEEL WHiCH WAY THE TIDES WERE SHIFTING.
WHEN THE THRONE OF HELL IS CLAIMED, YOU SHALL BE THE ONE SITTING ON IT. MY WISH IS TO DO EVERY-THING I CAN IN HELPiNG YOU GET THERE.
IRIS?
THAT'S WHY I'VE COME TO TELL YOU--YOU DON'T NEED THE DEAD ZONES TO RETURN TO HELL.
THERE IS ANOTHER ROUTE.
PLEASE LORD, HEAR HIM OUT.


"DEEP UNDER-GROUND IN THE CAVES OF OMEGA ISLAND, THERE'S A ***FISSURE***, A SMALL CRACK IN THE FABRIC OF REALITY BETWEEN THIS WORLD AND HELL.
"I DON'T KNOW WHY OR HOW IT'S THERE; I JUST KNOW IT EXISTS."
THAT'S WHERE I ***BECAME*** SINN, WHEN I WAS IMPRISONED THERE.*
MAYBE IT WAS THAT, IT DOESN'T MATTER, IT EXISTS, AND FOR NOW CLOWN DOESN'T KNOW HOW VALUABLE THE FISSURE IS.
* See Spawn's Universe #1 - Thomas
SO FAR, ANYONE WHO'S TRIED PASSING THROUGH IT FROM HELL HAS FAILED, I BELIEVE WITH YOUR POWERS, THERE'S A WAY TO ***REVERSE*** THE FLOW, TO GO FROM EARTH TO HELL--NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND.
AND I SHOULD TRUST YOU, A SOLDIER FROM CLOWN'S ARMY, AS THE ONE WITH ALL THE ANSWERS?
I UNDERSTAND YOUR HESITATION...
ALL I CAN SAY IS, YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE THAT ***HATES*** CLOWN, HE'S BETRAYED ME AND HUNDREDS OF OTHERS. SO, IF HELPING YOU ALLOWS ME TO GET MY ***REVENGE***, THEN I'LL BE YOUR LOYAL SUBJECT.
YOU'LL BE *RICHLY REWARDED* IF WHAT YOU SAY IS TRUE, BUT I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS FOR YOU. COME... LET'S WALK.
BUT, I WON'T ***TOLERATE*** EVEN A SINGLE LIE.

HAVE YOU NOTICED THE WEIRD LOOKS ROSEN'S BEEN GIVING ME?
HE'S PROBABLY WORRIED YOU'LL RAT HIM OUT TO JESS CA
HAUNT?
YOU NEED SOMETHING?
YOU STRONG, NO FIGHTER THOUGH.
NEED PRACTICE. NEED TRAINING.
THANKS, BUT I DON'T NEED HELP FROM SOME-ONE AS THICK AS YOU.
YOU. NEED. TRAINING.
WOOK
ALRIGHT! TAKE IT EASY.

"YOU THINK THEY'RE CAPABLE OF DOING WHAT WE NEED, JIM?"
THEY HAVE TO. WE DON'T HAVE ANY OTHER CHOICE.
WHAT ABOUT YOU? ARE YOU READY FOR THIS?
"I WOULD HAVE LIKED MORE TIME, BUT AL HAS FORCED OUR HAND. I THINK IT'S A M STAKE LETTING ROSEN SPEAK TO H.M."
I KNOW IT'S NOT A PERFECT SITUATION BUT WE NEED TO KEEP MARC ON OUR SIDE.
PLUS, IT'LL DISTRACT HIM WHILE I FIGURE OUT HOW TO DEAL WITH HIS MEDIEVAL SPAWN PERSONA, OR, AT LEAST, NEUTRALIZE IT.
"YES. WE AGREE ON THAT.
"THE LAST THING WE NEED IS ANOTHER SPAWN INTERFERING WITH OUR PLAN."

IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME UNTIL SINN COMES FOR HIM AGAIN. SPAWN KNOWS THIS
AND HE'S INTENT ON MINIMIZING THE LOSS OF HUMAN LIFE WHEN THAT HAPPENS. HE NEEDS TO TAKE THE OFFENSIVE.
IT'S WHY THE PAST WEEK, HE'S BEEN HUNTING DAY AND NIGHT, ATTEMPTING TO FIND HIS OLD MENTOR FIRST.
AT THE VERY LEAST, HE MEANS TO FINISH HIM OFF.

TO ACCOMPLISH THAT, HE NEEDS TO BE STRONG. HEALTHY.
BECAUSE AS MUCH AS HE'D LIKE TO IGNORE IT, THE LAST FEW MONTHS HAVE TAKEN A MOUNTING TOLL ON HIS BODY.
HE NEEDS TO REST.
TIME TO RECOVER.
BUT HOW! SINN SEEMS TO BE GROWING MORE POWERFUL EACH DAY. HE'LL CONTINUE TO PRESS HIS ASSAULTS.
YOU!
YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE HERE.

NICE TO SEE YOU TOO, AL.
I'M HERE, BECAUSE YOU HAVE A PROBLEM-- WE BOTH DO.
AND... I THOUGHT YOU'D BE RESTING. I HEARD ABOUT YOUR ENCOUNTER WITH S.NN.
YOU DON'T REST DURING WAR, THAT'S HOW ENEMIES CONQUER THEIR OPPONENTS.
YOU'VE BEEN AT THIS TOO LONG TO NOT KNOW THAT!
LOOK, I D.DN'T COME HERE TO PICK A FIGHT...
THEN WHY DID YOU COME?
TO WARN YOU! AND TO HELP. S.NN IS JUST THE T.P OF THE ICEBERG, YOU KNOW THAT! BUT YOU ST.LL KEEP PLAY.NG YOUR SOLO GAME.
HOW LONG'S THAT GOING TO LAST? WE ALL KEEP ASKING FOR THE SAME THING, WHY WON'T YOU LISTEN?!
I'M HELPING THE SCORCHED TEAM, WHAT MORE DO YOU WANT?
I WANT YOU ALIVE.

THAT WON'T HAPPEN IF YOU KEEP BE.NG A LONE WOLF.
HAVE YOU BOTHERED TO ASK THE QUESTION; "WHY AM I DOING IT THIS WAY?"
I'M SURE YOU THINK YOU HAVE A VALID ANSWER TO THAT, BUT C'MON AL, YOU'RE NOT BE.NG REALISTIC.
THAT'S THE PROBLEM I WAS TALKING ABOUT.
YOU HAVEN'T THE FAINTEST IDEA WHAT YOU'RE SPEWING, MARC.
I'M THE ONLY ONE CAPABLE OF HANDLING THIS. THE REST OF YOU ARE TOO GREEN!
YOU'RE WRONG! IF ANYTH.NG, YOU'RE THE LAST PERSON WHO SHOULD BE DOING THIS. YOU'RE THE B.GGEST TARGET AND YOU KEEP LETTING EMOTIONS GET IN YOUR WAY.
THAT'S A RECIPE FOR DISASTER. YOU NEED TO TRUST PEOPLE!
THAT RIGHT?
THEN WHEN WERE YOU PLANNING TO TELL ME YOU'VE MELDED WITH MEDIEVAL SPAWN?
YOU KNOW?

I'VE KNOWN FOR A WHILE. SO, SAVE YOUR LECTURE ABOUT TRUST.
NOW GET OUT.
AL, WAIT. JUST--
ZAT!
I'VE HEARD ENOUGH.
I TOLD YOU THIS WOULDN'T WORK, MARC, AND IT DIDN'T.
NOW *STEP ASIDE!* IT'S TIME TO GO BACK TO MY *ORIGINAL* PLAN.

THE ONE I SHOULD HAVE EXECUTED IN THE FIRST PLACE!

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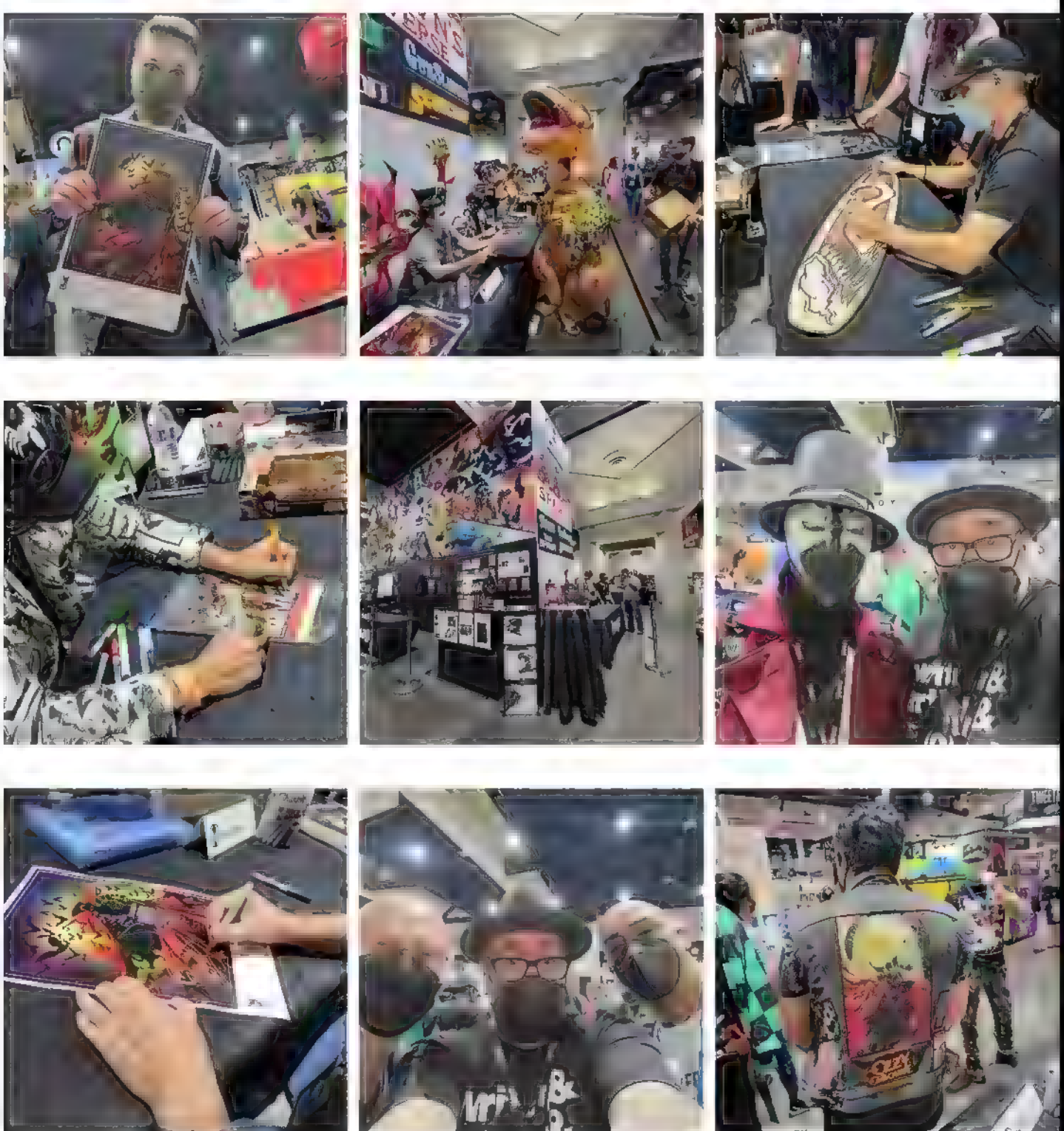
SPAWNING GROUND

PRESENTS: COMIC CON EXTRAVAGANZA



Jason Shawn Alexander (left), Thomas Healy (middle), and Jonathan Glapion (right)

Do you have a question or comment about Spawn? If so, e-mail it to us at: spawninggground@mcfarlane.com

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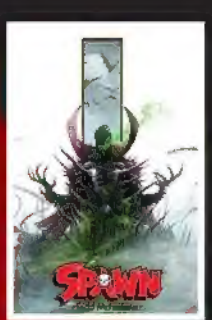
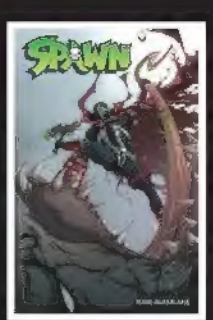
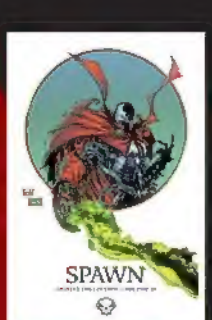




And Classic Spawn Tales!



Coming 2022

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OCTOBER 2022

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